

ABSTRACT

A method for operating a disk drive having timing marks (TMs) on the disk that are chosen to reduce the probability of misidentification of a TM in the presence of
5 read errors. The disk drive searches for TMs within a fixed TM search window which extends past the TM on the disk. A TM preferably maximizes the post-shift sliding distance for m post-shifts of the TM pattern, where m
10 corresponds to the TM search window boundary. In this manner, the probability of a misidentification of the TM due to a post-shift having a small distance from the TM pattern is reduced. The TM pattern also provides pre-shift error resistance.